

STRONGYLASPIS SPAETH, 1936 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA) *NON*
STRONGYLASPIS THOMSON, 1860: PROPOSED DESIGNATION
OF *CASSIDA ATRIPES* LECONTE, 1859 AS TYPE SPECIES.
Z.N.(S.)2492

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Spaeth, 1936 (*Entomol. Rundsch.*, vol. 53, p. 216) proposed the generic name *Strongylaspis* for a species which he identified as *Coptocycla bisignata* Boheman, 1855 (*Monographia Cassididarum*, p. 119), type species by original designation and monotypy. Hincks, 1950 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, series 12, vol. 3, p. 511) proposed *Strongylocassis* as a replacement name for *Strongylaspis* Spaeth because the latter name is preoccupied by *Strongylaspis* Thomson, 1860 (*Essai d'une classification de la famille des cérambycides* . . . , p. 313); however, in the following discussion *Strongylaspis* Spaeth rather than the valid *Strongylaspis* Hincks is used in order to simplify as much as possible an otherwise complex situation.

2. There are two items of evidence to indicate that Spaeth based the genus *Strongylaspis* on specimens of *Cassida atripes* LeConte, 1859 (*Smithson. Contrib. Knowl.*, vol. 11(6), p. 28) and not, as he believed, on *Coptocycla bisignata* Boheman.

3. First, I have examined the holotype of *Coptocycla bisignata* Boheman in the Riksmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden and the holotype of *Cassida atripes* LeConte in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts and find that Spaeth's detailed description of the species before him conforms to the morphology of *Cassida atripes* but not to that of *Coptocycla bisignata*. Specifically *Cassida atripes* has toothed tarsal claws while those of *Coptocycla bisignata* are simple, and the clypeal sculpture also differs between these species.

4. Second, three of the four specimens of *Cassida atripes* in the Spaeth collection in Manchester Museum, Manchester, England are labelled 'bisignata Spaeth det'.

5. There is no doubt in my mind that the type species of *Strongylaspis* Spaeth was misidentified by Spaeth, and that he had before him specimens of *Cassida atripes* LeConte not *Coptocycla bisignata* Boheman.

6. The two species in question are valid and belong to different genera in the tribe Cassidini. *Cassida atripes* has been accepted as a junior synonym of *Jonthonota nigripes* (Olivier, 1791, *Encyclopédie méthodique* . . . , vol. 5(2), p. 384) since it was so listed by Spaeth, 1914 (*Coleopterorum Catalogus*, pars 62, p. 120), but this synonymy is in error. *Cassida atripes* and the common North American *Jonthonota nigripes* are

neither conspecific nor congeneric. Sanderson & King, 1951 (*J. Kans. entomol. Soc.*, vol. 24, p. 126) considered *Strongylaspis* Spaeth to be a junior synonym of *Metriona* Weise, 1896 (*Det. entomol. Z.*, p. 13). This synonymy is also incorrect since neither *Cassida atripes* nor *Coptocycla bisignata* are congeneric with *Cassida elatior* Klug, type species of *Metriona*.

7. Since the name *Strongylaspis* Spaeth was synonymised in error, it did not appear as a valid genus in subsequent taxonomic works. Suppression of *C. bisignata* as type species of *Strongylaspis* would therefore cause no major change in the existing taxonomic literature. *Cassida atripes* represents a valid and so far monotypic genus that would be left without a name if *bisignata* were to be left as type species of *Strongylaspis*.

8. As shown in (3) above, *Strongylaspis* Spaeth, 1936, is based on a misidentified species. In accordance with article 70(b) of the Code, the Commission is requested to set aside the original type species designation and designate *Cassida atripes* as the type species of *Strongylaspis* Spaeth, 1936. This action would eliminate the need for a recharacterisation of *Strongylaspis* Spaeth as well as the need for a new genus to accommodate *C. atripes*. Also this action would preserve the original intention of Spaeth by retaining the original entity in the genus he described. For these reasons the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all type designations hitherto made for the nominal genus *Strongylaspis* Spaeth, 1936, and the replacement name *Strongylocassis* Hincks, 1950, and to designate *Cassida atripes* LeConte, 1859, as type species of that genus;
- (2) to place the specific name *atripes* LeConte, 1859, as published in the binomen *Cassida atripes* (specific name of the type species of *Strongylocassis* Hincks, 1950, replacement for *Strongylaspis* Spaeth, 1936) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the generic name *Strongylocassis* Hincks, 1950, (gender: feminine), replacement name for *Strongylaspis* Spaeth, 1936, type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Cassida atripes* LeConte, 1859, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.